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August 31, 2011

Laborers respond to Governor Heineman's letter

Today, Laborers Local 1140 expressed disappointment with Governor Heineman's decision to oppose the Keystone XL Pipeline, a project which would add thousands of jobs and bring millions of dollars to Nebraska's economy. Importantly, independent review has confirmed the safety of the aquifer and the appropriateness of the route.

"Our main question is 'why now'? Weighing in against this project at the twelfth hour doesn't help create jobs and puts the entire \$7 billion project in jeopardy. The science has shown this route to be safe. In fact, just five days ago the State Department issued a federal report that the route has fewer impacts than the other routes. "Longer routes would cause more of an environmental impact and would not be any safer."

"This is unfortunate. This project is the most studied in recent history. It will be the safest pipeline ever built and would be constructed by the most trained and experienced Nebraska workers. If the Governor has doubts about this pipeline's safety, is he going to order the closing of the thousands of miles of pipeline which cross Nebraska currently? Nebraska has been talking about this issue for two years now. Are we going to listen to sounds bites and activists or will we trust the scientific review of regulators charged with protecting public safety. As Congressman Lee Terry appropriately pointed out, "science is more meaningful than hyperbole."

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